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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE 19

7590

12/18/2001

John G Posa  
Gifford Krass & Groh  
280 N Old Woodward Ave Suite 400  
Birmingham, MI 48009

EXAMINER

BHAT, NINA NMN

ART UNIT

CLASS-SUBCLASS

1761

426-087000

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2001

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/540,776      | 03/31/2000  | Stephen B. Hoy       | HOY-00103/03        | 2434             |

TITLE OF INVENTION: EDIBLE ANIMAL GREETING CARDS

| TOTAL CLAIMS | APPLN. TYPE    | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE | PUBLICATION FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE   |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| 12           | nonprovisional | YES          | \$20      | \$0             | \$20             | 03/18/2002 |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT.

**PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.**

**THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151.**

**HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:**

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above. If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

B. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.  
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

## PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and mail this form, together with applicable fee(s), to:**

**Box ISSUE FEE  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

**MAILING INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 4 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Legibly mark-up with any corrections or use Block 1)

7590                    12/18/2001

John G Pos  
Gifford Krass & Groh  
280 N Old Woodward Ave Suite 400  
Birmingham, MI 48009

Note: The certificate of mailing below can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing.

### Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Box Issue Fee address above on the date indicated below.

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
|  | (Depositor's name) |
|  | (Signature)        |
|  | (Date)             |

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| EXAMINER       | ART UNIT | CLASS-SUBCLASS |
|----------------|----------|----------------|
| BHAT, NINA NMN | 1761     | 426-087000     |

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363). Use of PTO form(s) and Customer Number are recommended, but not required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

- Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.  
 "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47) attached.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)**

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment has been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent)       individual     corporation or other private group entity     government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- Issue Fee  
 Publication Fee  
 Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

- A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.  
 Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
 The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

The COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) to the application identified above.

(Authorized Signature)

(Date)

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending on the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND FEES AND THIS FORM TO: Box Issue Fee, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMIT THIS FORM WITH FEE(S)

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| 7590   | 12/18/2001  |                      | EXAMINER                | BHAT, NINA NMN   |
| John G Posa<br>Gifford Krass & Groh<br>280 N Old Woodward Ave Suite 400<br>Birmingham, MI 48009<br>UNITED STATES |             |                      | ART UNIT                | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 1761                    |                  |
|  |             |                      | DATE MAILED: 12/18/2001 |                  |

**Determination of Patent Term Extension under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)**  
**(application filed after June 7, 1995 but prior to May 29, 2000)**

The patent term extension is 0 days. Any patent to issue from the above identified application will include an indication of the 0 day extension on the front page.

If a continued prosecution application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines patent term extension is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. (<http://pair.uspto.gov>)

| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
|                               | 09/540,776             | HOY, STEPHEN B.     |  |
|                               | Examiner<br>N. Bhat    | Art Unit<br>1761    |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to Summary Judgement Dismissal and Amendment of 12/13/01.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-12 re-numbered as 1-8 respectively.
3.  The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

5.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - (a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

7.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No. 3.
  - (b)  including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

1. A third party protest was filed June 20,2001, applicant responded to the third party protest in the opposition letter of July 23, 2001. The United States District court Eastern District of Michigan Southern Division approved a settlement reached by the parties and the case is dismissed. Pursuant to the settlement applicant has canceled claims 1-4 without prejudice. Claims 5-12 are pending.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not teach nor suggest a greeting card for a pet comprising a pair of rawhide panels, each having a side edge; a plurality of holes formed along the side edge of each rawhide panels; and an elongated strip of pet-edible material laced through the holes thereby forming a hinge between the panels.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to N. Bhat whose telephone number is 703-308-3879. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 703-308-3959. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 1761

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5665.

  
N. Bhat  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1761

December 14, 2001